

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
MEETING ROOM #113
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998
9:30 A.M.

Board Members Present: Linda Steinman, Chair
Kathy Campbell
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins

Board Members Absent: Steve Svoboda

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

Steinman opened the Board of Corrections meeting.

AGENDA ITEM:

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 1998 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Campbell seconded approval of the minutes. On call Hudkins, Campbell, Heier and Steinman voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, briefly reviewed population statistics for the jail and Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) (Exhibit A), noting that both facilities are functionally at capacity each day. He attributed a portion of this trend to individuals sitting out their County Court fines in the jail facility and suggested that the County consider contracting with a private collection agency for collection of fines.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Thurber stated that average length of stay figures for the third quarter are slightly skewed by increased admissions with stays of shorter duration.

Campbell suggested that consideration also be given to allowing individuals to sit out court fines in a day reporting program.

The Board requested that a discussion of collection of County Court fines, options to sitting out court fines in the jail facility and continuous jury term feasibility be scheduled with Mike Thurber, Corrections Director; Judith Leech, County Court Judicial Administrator; and Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, at a Thursday County Board of Commissioners meeting after the first of the year.

Thurber also reviewed statistics noted on the following graphs and charts (Exhibit A):

- Total Populations FY95 to FY99
- Jail-Only Population FY95 to FY99
- Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)-Only Population FY98 to FY99
- Lancaster County Corrections Department Monthly Status Report, Calendar Year 1998
- Lancaster County Corrections Department Monthly Status Report, FY 1999

3 LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Thurber reported that staff is working to create a computer mechanism to track individuals that are being sentenced to the State Penitentiary or are going on probation to comply with the provisions of LB 695. He estimated there will be approximately \$500,000 in annual revenue.

4 OTHER ITEMS

Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) Construction Program Activities

Thurber reported that the Corrections Demolition Crew will be assisting in the renovation of Cornhusker Place Detox once the Lincoln Children's Museum project is completed.

Steinman noted that the County Board would like to honor the demolition crew for their efforts with a wall plaque in the Lincoln Children's Museum.

GED Computer Systems

Thurber reported that two personal computers (PC's) were purchased through the Inmate Benefit Fund to provide tutorials for inmates in the GED program.

State Fair Activities

Thurber reported that Corrections Department staff fingerprinted approximately 2,300 children at the Nebraska State Fair.

Outside Contracts

Thurber noted that a contract with Lincoln Medical Education Foundation Medical Group for physician services for inmates had been approved by the County Board.

Thurber also noted that contracts with Ameritel, inmate phone vendor, and Aramark, food service contractor, will be due for renewal in 1999.

Offender Transport

Thurber reported that 2,571 County and City offenders were transported to various courts during the third quarter.

Recruitment/Training Activities

Thurber reported that eight certificates of applicants were received and 88 applicants were screened for positions within the Corrections Department during the third quarter. He noted that the department is currently at full complement.

Thurber noted that the Corrections Department has had difficulty retaining nursing staff.

Pending Litigation

Thurber reported that repair of the LCF floor has been delayed, due to lack of available construction crews. He indicated that inmate labor may be used to perform work normally provided by a contractor.

5 NEW BUSINESS

Staffing

Thurber reported that he has been working with the Personnel Department in structuring the Records Division to better handle the increasing work volume.

Equipment

Thurber reported that electrical power surges had damaged circuits in fingerprinting equipment, at a cost of \$8,600. The equipment, which was received at no cost from the State Patrol, lacked necessary surge protector components. He reported that surge protectors have since been added and Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, and Sue Eckley, Workers' Compensation & Risk Management Manager, are reviewing the claim for insurance coverage.

6 ADJOURNMENT

Steinman adjourned the Board of Corrections meeting.

Kandra Hahn
Lancaster County Clerk